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Anthropology 2 - Creation

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Creation of man

The defense of the relevance of the biblical text before a skeptic and doubting world demands a general understanding of the scientific issues

Contradictions between Evolution and Scriptures

- **Bible**: God is Creator of all things (Gen 1)
  Evolution: Natural random chance processes can account for existence of all things
- **Bible**: World created in literal 6-day period
  Evolution: World evolved over billions of years
- **Bible** Creation is completed (Gen 2:3)
  Evolution: Creative process continuing.
- **Bible**: Oceans before land (Gen 2:3)
  Evolution: land before ocean.
- **Bible:** Atmosphere between two hydrospheres
  Evolution: Contiguous atmosphere and hydrosphere

Contradictions

- **Bible**: First life was land plants (Gen 1:11) **Evolution**: Marine organisms evolved first.
- **Bible**: Earth before sun and stars (Gen 1:14-19) **Evolution**: Sun and stars before earth.
- **Bible:** Fruit trees before fishes (Gen 1:11, 20-21) **Evolution**: Fishes before fruit trees.
- **Bible**: All stars made on the fourth day (Gen 1:16) **Evolution**: Stars evolved at various times.
- **Bible**: Birds and fishes created on the fifth day (1:20-21) **Evolution**: Fishes evolved hundreds of millions of years before birds appeared.
- **Bible**: Bible before insects (Gen 1:20-31; Lev 11) **Evolution**: Insects before birds

Contradictions cont.

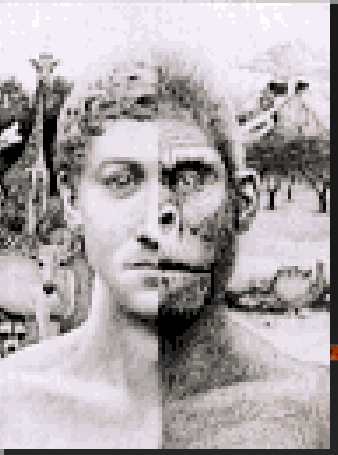
- **Bible**: Whales before reptiles (Gen 1:20-31)
  Evolution: Reptiles before whales
- **Bible**: Birds before reptiles (Gen 1:20-31)
  Evolution: Reptiles before birds
- **Bible**: Man before rain (Gen 2:5)
  Evolution: Rain before man.
- **Bible**: Man before woman (Gen 2:21-22)
  Evolution: Woman before man (by genetics)
- **Bible:** Light before the sun (Gen 1:3-19).
  Evolution: Sun before any light.
- **Bible**: Plants before the sun (Gen 1:11-19).
  Evolution: Sun before any plants.

Contradictions cont.

- **Bible**: Abundance and variety of marine life suddenly (1:20)
  Evolution: Marine life gradually developed from a primitive organic blob.
- **Bible**: Man's body from the dust of the earth (Gen 2:7)
  Evolution: Man evolved from monkeys
- **Bible**: Man exercised dominion over all organisms (Gen 1:29)
  Evolution: Most organisms extinct before man evolved.
- **Bible** Man originally a vegetarian (Gen 1:29)
  Evolution: Man originally a meat-eater
- **Bible**: Fixed and distinct "kinds" (Gen 1:11, 12, 21, 24-25)
  Evolution: Life forms in a continual state of flux
- **Bible**: Man's sin is cause of death (Rom 5:12)
  Evolution: Struggle and death existed long before evolution of man

Presuppositions of Creationism

- **God is**…. (He exists and is the cause of everything created)
- **God made man in His image**
- **God has spoken** (He revealed the origin of all by creation, who He is and how to have a relationship with Him)



mportance of Creation

- Self-worth derived from a sense of identity and origin
- Relationships are God-like or animal-like
- Concept of God determines how we will live

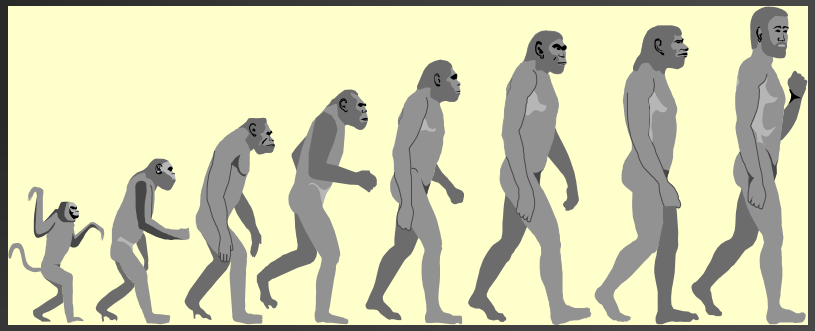
Choose your presupposition well:

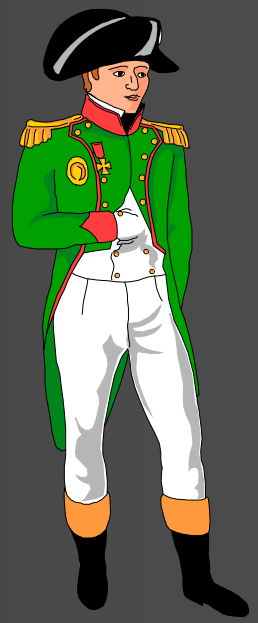
- Impossible to “prove” any concept of origins
- Scientific method depends upon observation and experimentation: an impossibility! Therefore no concept of origin is scientific!
- Evolution is only a “belief” about origins, not a “fact.”

Choose what you want to believe:

Dr. George Wald, 1967 Noble Peace Prize in Science: “When it comes to the origin of life on this earth, there are only two possibilities: creation or spontaneous generation (evolution). There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved 100 years ago, but that leads us only to one other conclusion: that of supernatural creation. We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds (personal reasons); therefore, we *choose to believe* the impossible; that life arose spontaneously by chance.”

¿Is it easy to believe in evolution?





The transition from a frog to a prince in an instant is considered a

Fable

The transition from a frog to a prince in 4 billion years is called

SCIENCE!

The possibility that a single cell could randomly combine to begin the random formation of all that exists in 4.6 billion years is **$1:10^{40.000}$**

¡The number of atoms in the entire universe is 10^{80} !

Five Theistic views of creation

1. Theistic evolution view
2. Six-day creation view
3. Six-day re-creation view (Gap theory)
4. Six-revelatory day view
5. Progressive creation view

1. Theistic evolution view:

- Interprets "*yom*" (day) as a symbolic or mythological day.
  - Genesis is a religious allegory intended to teach that God is the source of its existence
  - God set the process in motion (original elements), then let evolutionary process develop everything and mankind from animals

2. Six-day creation view

- Interprets “yom” as literal 24-hour day
  - 1,900 times it appears in OT
  - Only 65 times refers to an indefinite period
  - “Evening and morning” indicates a 24-hour day
- Contends:
  - All creation occurred in 6 24-hour days as Gen 1
  - Cosmos is relatively young
  - Worldwide flood in Gen 6-8 caused transformation of earth’s surface and geologic records

3. Six-day re-creation (Gap)

- Interprets “yom” as 24-hour day
- Contends:
  - Gen 1 describes the “recreation” of world from chaotic state (v. 2)
  - Chaotic state caused by judgment on original creation due to the fall of Satan (Isa 14)
  - Explains dinosaurs and “cave men”
  - Gap between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 explains the apparent age of the earth

4. Six-revelatory day view:

- Interprets “yom” as 24-hour day
- Contends:
  - Days of Gen 1 are days of revelation, not a creative process
  - Events ascribed to each day are not what occurred on that day, but the things God revealed to Adam or Moses in a 24-hour day period about creation.

5. Progressive creation view

- **Interprets** "yom" as a long, unspecified period of time
  - Gen 2:4, "In the 'DAY' (yom) that the Lord God made earth and heaven (NASB)"
  - Insist that the creations of Adam and Eve and the naming of the animals require a longer period of time than 24-hours
- **Contend:**
  - God used a combination of supernatural interventions and natural evolutionary processes (within species) to bring about final result
  - God created man distinct from animal kingdom
  - Truth about world found in science and Bible w/o contradiction
  - Scientific discoveries should not be discounted if doesn't fit
  - Each period (day) began with 24-hour day, where God did creation work, then natural processes completed work

Six-day creation view

- Origins of the Universe
  - Two laws of thermodynamics
    - Energy conservation: energy can be changed in form, but is not now being created or destroyed
    - All physical systems, if left alone, tend to become disorganized, run down, die. Any increase in organization requires input of energy from outside system itself (Henry Morris).

Discovery of “Big Bang”

- April 24, 1992, George Smoot of COBE (Cosmic Background Explorer), recorded the event:
- “What we found is evidence for the birth of the universe. It’s like looking at God.” Stephen Hawking said, “It is the discovery of the century, if not of all time.”

Implications of discovery

1. Universe can be traced back to a single, ultimate origin of matter, energy, space (with dimensions of length, width, and height) and time.

- Theological significance: The cause (Entity) of universe who brought the universe into existence existed and created from outside (i.e., independent) of matter, energy and space-time dimensions.

2. The universe exhibits more than 60 characteristics that require exact timing for their existence, and all of life as we know it.

- Theological significance: The Entity who caused existence must be personal, intelligent, powerful and caring (only reasonable explanation for creative provision for our needs)

A Caring God

- Astronomer George Greenstein, in *The Symbiotic Universe*, 1988, "As we survey all the evidence, the thought insistently arises that some supernatural agency– or rather, Agent, must be involved. Is it possible that suddenly, without intending to, we have stumbled upon scientific proof of the existence of a Supreme Being? Was it God who stepped in and so providentially crafted the cosmos for our benefit?" (Hugh Ross)
- "*Through his power all things were made—things in heaven and on earth, things seen and unseen, all powers, authorities, lords, and rulers. All things were made through Christ and for Christ. He was there before anything was made, and all things continue because of him*." Col 1:16-17

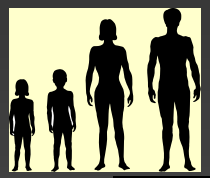
Age of earth: billions or thousands?

- Doubtful radioactive dating
- Earth's magnetic field
- Meteoritic dust
- Mississippi River Delta
- Petroleum and natural gas
- Rotation of Earth
- Recession of Moon
- Amount of helium in atmosphere
- Presence of Pleochroic halos
- Rate of population growth
- Comets
- Star clusters and Superstars

Theological problem: death and decay are result of sin – which began with Adam's sin: "Since death came through a man…." 1C 15:21

Studies of the growth of world population

- The growth of the population indicates a beginning point relatively close, not ancient
- The families of the world have an average of 3.6 children and a growth rate of 2% per year



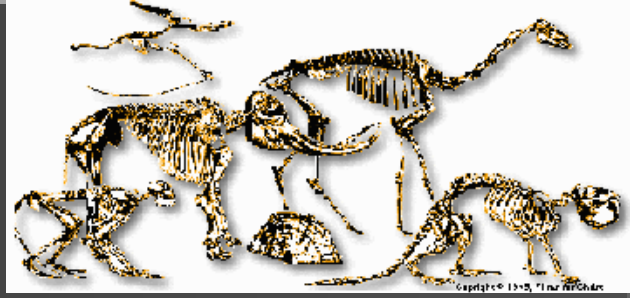
Since the flood

Beginning with 2, with just 2 children and 40 years per generation times 100 generations = 3.5 billion. This is 1/2% annual growth

One million years of evolution

Beginning with 2, plus 2 kids and 40 years per generation for 25,000 generations = 10^{2100} at 1/2% annual growth ¡This would result in <u>more people today than there are atoms</u> in the universe!

Fossil record?



- Absence of life-forms in lower 2/3 of crust (Cambrian period). Then suddenly abundant forms of life appear: billions of fossils of highly advanced life forms. Est. 1.5 billion yrs to evolve. Note: “not a single multi-cellular fossil ever found in Precambrian rocks” – Duane Gish
- The majority of plant and animal fossils essentially the same as living counterparts. Darwin wrote: “Not one change of species into another is on record…we cannot prove that a single species has been changed.”
- Fossils are only possible through a cataclysmic flood and massive sediment burial of plants and animals. Layers represent natural escape ability from flood.

Origin of mankind

"All present and past tribes of men …are descended from Adam. Some of these, because of sin, inbreeding, disease or other causes, may even degenerated into ape-like appearance… There is certainly no clear-cut series of fossil hominid, leading up to man… Most of the more familiar ape-men– Pithecanthropus, Sinanthropus, Australopithecus, are believed by many anthropologists to represent evolutionary "blind alleys" with man's real ancestors still unknown.

In general, man's body is immensely superior in its degree of organization to that of the animals, but it is fundamentally of the same materials. Similarly, his soul is basically identical with animal life… But it is in his spirit that man is completely separated from all animals by an impassable gulf."

Henry Morris

The Value of Men

- “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” NIV Genesis 1:27= **His image in us allows us to communicate with and worship Him**
- “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.’” Acts 17:26 = **all races have equal worth and value**

Contraste con la perspectiva bíblica

- “Reconoced que Jehová es Dios; El nos hizo, y no nosotros a nosotros mismos…” Sal 100:3
- Hay un Dios vivo y que ha dejado Sus huellas en toda la creación
- Un Dios tan grande para crear y controlar el universo es suficiente grande a comunicar Su revelación al hombre y preservar tal revelación del error para que haya una revelación firme de la verdad

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Evolution requires a lot of faith

- Evolution requires a lot of faith: The “Big Bang” says that all the energy and material of the universe at one time was compressed in a plasmic ball of electrons, protons and neutrons (of course, no idea how this got there).
- One day it exploted and various billion years later we have human beings with a brain consisting of 12 billion neurons in the most complicated arrangement of material known to man. If that were not enough, it has 120 billion connections in the human mind!
- How lucky can you get! All this was formed by luck and pure chance, through trial and error, on the level of electrons, protons and neutrons. This is a million times more difficult to believe – plus it is blind faith: it stands against all possibility and reason.

Two models to choose from…

- Is it more reasonable to believe that man was created by an act of God, simultaneously creating the laws, processes and entities of nature as described in Genesis?
- Or is it easier to believe the theory of “molecule to man”, that hydrogen gas with sufficient time would generate a person completely by itself totally by chance?

Reflexion questions

- Are you convinced you were personally crafted by God? Can you trust what He has done, so you can trust what He has said?
- Do you worship God by praising Him for what is still evident of His creative acts? Do you see beauty and amazing design all around you?
- Are people as important to you as they are to God? Do you have prejudices or dislikes of people to whom He has given worth? Do you build up the worth in others, or tear them down by criticizing them?